CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pressure plate assembly for a friction clutch, comprising:

a housing;

a pressure plate which can rotate with said housing about an axis of rotation;

a force-exerting arrangement supported against said housing and exerting a force on said pressure plate along a path of force transmission;

a wear take-up element in said path of force transmission, said wear take-up element being movable to compensate for wear of said friction clutch; and

an adjusting element which can move to cause said wear take-up element to move in order to compensate for wear, said adjusting element moving in response to centrifugal force on said adjusting element.

2. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 1 further comprising adjusting teeth assigned to said wear take-up element for movement with said wear-take up element, said adjusting element comprising adjusting teeth which engage said adjusting teeth assigned to said wear take-up element in order to cause said wear take-up element to move.

3. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 2 wherein said adjusting teeth of said adjusting element can disengage said adjusting teeth of said wear take-up element.

4. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 3 wherein said adjusting element is supported on said pressure plate with freedom to slide and pivot relative to said pressure plate.

5. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 4 said adjusting teeth of said adjusting element engage said adjusting teeth of said wear take-up element in a first end position of sliding movement, and said adjusting teeth of said adjusting element disengage said adjusting teeth of said wear take-up element in a second position of sliding movement.

6. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 wherein said adjusting element moves from said first end position to said second end position by at least one of gravity and a pretensioning force of a spring.

7. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 further comprising an arresting device which allows the adjusting element to move from the first end position to the second end position only after wear has occurred.

8. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 7 wherein said arresting device comprises an arresting section on said adjusting element and a clamping arrangement which releases said arresting section when wear occurs and which clamps the arresting section to arrest the adjusting element in the first end position in the absence of wear and after a wear compensation movement of said wear take-up element.

9. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 wherein said adjusting element can be brought by centrifugal force from said second end position to said first end position.

10. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 wherein said adjusting element is pivoted into position for adjusting movement after reaching or while moving into said second end position.

11. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 10 wherein said adjusting element is pivoted into position for adjusting movement by at least one of gravity and a pretensioning force of a spring.

12. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 10 wherein said adjusting element can be pivoted by centrifugal force from said position for adjusting movement to said first end position.

13. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a wear detection element on said pressure plate, said wear detection element having certain areas which shift position relative to said pressure plate upon occurrence of wear.

14. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 8 wherein said clamping arrangement comprises a wear detection element on said pressure plate, said wear detection element having certain areas which shift position relative to said pressure plate upon occurrence of wear.

15. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 13 further comprising a blocking element which prevents backward movement of said wear detection element relative to the pressure plate after the occurrence of wear and the shifting in position of said certain areas of said wear detection element relative to said pressure plate.

16. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 15 wherein said blocking element comprises a wedge-shaped blocking slider.

17. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 15 further comprising an adjusting force-transmitting element connected to said wear take-up element and having adjusting teeth, said adjusting element comprising adjusting teeth which engage said adjusting teeth on said force transmitting element in order to cause said wear take-up element to move, said adjusting force transmitting element comprising said blocking element.

18. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 13 wherein said housing comprises a counter-detection area, said wear detection element detecting occurrence of wear by interaction with said counter-detection area.

19. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 13 wherein said force-exerting arrangement comprises a counter-detection area, said wear detection element detecting occurrence of wear by interaction with said counter-detection area.